

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2004**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Bea Antenore, President, at 9:01 a.m., in the large conference room at the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department administration building. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Bea Antenore, President
Chris Kozaites, Vice President
Raymond Chavarria
William Marmion
Naomi Rainey (late)
Harry Saltzgaver
Drew Satariano

Absent: None

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Lee Miller, Superintendent, Parks/Grounds Maintenance
Theresa Maceyka, Maintenance Operations Supervisor
Gwendolyn Parker, Superintendent of Contracts and Revenue
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development
Bert Srack, Acting Manager, Community Recreation Services
Steven Neal, Chief Ranger
Alvin Bernstein, Superintendent of Prevention and Intervention
Robin Black, Executive Secretary to the Director

Guests: Miguel Aranda, Office of Councilmember Uranga, 7th District
Robert Lamond, Partners of Parks
Joan Greenwood
Jill Hill, Wrigley Association
Vida Brown, PCA
Amy Bodek, Community Development Department

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 18, 2003

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to approve the December 18, 2003 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – MARIA BUZZARD

Maria Buzzard stated that Sammy had been busy at Beach Maintenance, getting buried in the sand, teaching Lester Thompson how to use the computer, and helping the Beach Maintenance staff. Ms. Buzzard awarded Sammy to Ms. Tasha Day, from the Special Events and Filming Bureau.

IV. EMPLOYEES-OF-THE-MONTH PRESENTATIONS FOR JANUARY

Vice President Kozaites announced Leslie Hunsaker as Business Operations Bureau's Administrative Employee of the Month. Ms. Gwendolyn Parker stated that Ms. Hunsaker was not present because she was busy doing what she does best, writing a grant application for the Department.

Vice President Kozaites announced Sokhom Prel as Community Recreation Services Bureau's Field/Operations Employee of the Month. Mr. Jack Deaton stated that Ms. Prel was just transferred to the PAL program in North Long Beach and she teaches the computer graphics classes there and at the East side PAL. He said that Ms. Prel started out as a volunteer in the Bixby Park area, has worked on the mural arts projects, has worked with the Future Generations program at Houghton Park.

Vice President Kozaites announced Joe Ambrose as Maintenance Operations Bureau's Lead/Supervisory Employee of the Month. Mr. Lee Miller stated that Mr. Ambrose began working with the Department on September 10, 1980, as a Gardener II. He said that in June of 1988, Mr. Ambrose was promoted to Park Crew Supervisor and in June of 1997, he was reclassified to Park Maintenance Supervisor, which is his current position. Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Ambrose oversees staff who do tree trimming, weed abatement, and whatever else they are asked to do.

President Antenore asked the Commissioners to pull item #04-0103 and hold it aside.

V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#04-0101

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to authorize the Community Recreation Services Bureau manager or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed. The motion carried unanimously.

#04-0102

REQUEST BY AMERICAN LEGION AND CONNIE MACK LEAGUES FOR WAIVER OF FIELD PERMIT AND LIGHT USE FEES FOR BLAIR FIELD BASEBALL STADIUM

Mr. Hester stated that this is an annual request from American Legion and Connie Mack Youth Baseball Association for a fee waiver and light fee waiver for use of the facilities at Blair Field. He said that the Department has been waiving their fees for many years. He stated that the Department is recommending that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the waiver for the current year. He said that, because of the City's budget situation, the Department might not be able to waive the fees next year. Mr. Hester stated that the Department has notified the organizations of that possibility.

It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Commissioner Saltzgaver to approve the waiver of field permit and light use fees for rental of Blair Field by both the American Legion and Connie Mack leagues during June and July 2004. The motion carried unanimously.

#04-0103

FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONCESSION PERMIT FOR BLAIR FIELD WITH KAREN STANISKIS AND SOFY SOM, A PARTNERSHIP, DOING BUSINESS AS S & B FOODS

President Antenore stated after the posting of the agenda, the California Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control has stated that there can only be one name on this contract and that she would accept a revised motion in the name of Sofy Som, as sole proprietor.

It was moved by Commissioner Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Rainey to authorize the Director to execute a concession permit with Sofy Som, as sole proprietor, doing business as S & B Foods for a term of one year. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Antenore, Chair

President Antenore stated that the Committee met and discussed the agenda. Vice President Kozaites stated that the Executive Committee would soon be meeting to discuss the 2005 budget.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
Vice President Kozaites, Chair

Vice President Kozaites said that the statement was included in the packet. He said that 33 percent of the year has expired, with expenditures at 18.5 percent and revenue at 21.7 percent. He asked if staff could explain the new attachment listing the CIP budget. Mr. Hester stated that this was funding for Skylinks and is not from the General Fund. He said that he would have staff respond to the Commissioners off agenda.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Rainey, Chair

President Antenore stated that the Committee met this morning. She said that Alvin Bernstein attended also and he discussed his report.

Mr. Alvin Bernstein distributed a description of his division along with a monthly report. He stated that his division settles verbal disputes and also those involving firearms and other weapons. Mr. Bernstein discussed how his division intervenes and prevents violence in the city.

President Antenore asked if the Parks and Recreation Commission would be receiving this report quarterly or monthly. Mr. Bernstein responded that he would submit his report monthly.

Mr. Hester stated that this division is on the streets and they are former gang members themselves who work with gang members to convince them to move into something else in a more positive way.

Commissioner Rainey thanked President Antenore for taking over the Park Safety Committee meeting this morning.

Commissioner Rainey asked if Mr. Bernstein had data for the Attitude Crew on the frequency of youth returning to the program. Mr. Bernstein stated that now that his division is all under one roof, they have started to track those numbers.

Commissioner Rainey asked which of his programs was the most successful. Mr. Bernstein responded that the most successful was the program that slowed the retaliatory shootings. He said that they used to occur on a nightly basis.

Commissioner Rainey asked how the division reports its success stories. Mr. Hester responded that this is a question that he has been struggling with for some time. He said that this division does not get the credit for all the work that they do. Mr. Hester stated that Bert Shack, Cindy Fogg, Alvin Bernstein, and he are actively involved on the new City task force that Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager, is chairing. He said that they are looking for ideas and public relations ideas on how to make this division better known.

Commissioner Rainey reiterated that they should make sure that data is kept on the Attitude Crew, the conflict mediation, and the tattoo removal divisions. She said that this documentation is very important.

Vice President Kozaites asked the number of staff in the division. Mr. Bernstein responded that there are 23 total staff, 10 of which are for outreach. Mr. Hester stated that these positions are all part time with one supervisor.

President Antenore stated that the Park Ranger statistics were included in the packet and requested that Chief Neal make a comment about the "turf" wars at the skate park.

Chief Steven Neal stated that they received information through the Police Department that there is a "turf" war relating to the skate park, between the local skaters and the skaters from Orange County. He said that the park rangers would be monitoring the skate park closely.

Commissioner Chavarria requested that the Parks and Recreation Commissioners take a tour of the new Intervention/Prevention facility.

Commissioner Rainey commented that Chief Neal is doing a good job and the park rangers handle situations very well.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Satariano, Chair

Commissioner Satariano stated that the Committee did not meet this month and encouraged the Commissioners to review pages 3 and 4, in the Director's Report.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Commissioner Marmion, Chair

Commissioner Marmion stated that the Committee held their quarterly meeting this month. He said that they had hoped to have the EIR for the PacificCenter at this time, but it was not ready. He said that the Committee would meet after the EIR is released, possibly in early February, and bring a recommendation back to the Commission. He went over the major events listed in the quarterly report in the packet.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
President Antenore, Chair

President Antenore stated that the Committee did not meet this month.

President Antenore stated that item C under New Business would be taken next.

X. NEW BUSINESS

C. APPROVAL OF PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A MINI-PARK ON A SITE WEST OF SAN FRANCISCO AVENUE AND NORTH OF 21ST STREET

Mr. Dennis Eschen described the project and that they held a community meeting with the homeowners who back up to the site. He said that there have been some concerns from those homeowners. He said that the City Council office has taken the lead this last year and held meetings with the community. He said that the community is now satisfied and has agreed to go ahead with plans for a basic park with turf, trees, picnic area, and a walking path. He stated that the Department has funding from the Los Angeles County Supervisor, who would finance the first phase of construction.

Ms. Jill Hill stated that she is the Co-President of the Wrigley Association and lives near this site. She said that this project has been in the works for about three years and that they need more green space in this neighborhood. She said that this plot of land is currently vacant and the weeds get about three feet tall. She said that they also get people in there drinking alcohol and other unwelcome activities. She requested that this project be moved along because the neighborhood is in need of the green space.

Ms. Joan Greenwood stated that she lives near the site. She said that from the beginning, she and some of her neighbors across from this site have monitored the activities and have been favor of the park, which they will believe will cut back on the undesirable activities. She said that those people who objected to making this a formal park use it as an informal dog park. She said that she is worried about the youngsters in the area who play in the street and might get hurt. She said that if anyone has concerns about parking for the park, she and her neighbors are the ones who would be impacted and they are in favor of the park and this design.

Mr. Miguel Aranda stated that he represents Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga's office, in the 7th District. He thanked those who attended the Tanaka Park grand opening. He said that what was once a dirt lot is now a great park for everyone's enjoyment. He said that Councilmember Uranga also supports this park because she supports open spaces and the idea that a passive park, like this, not only increases the economic value of a great neighborhood, but also increases the quality of life for the people who can walk to that park.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if there was going to be any signage on San Francisco Avenue to direct people to the park. Mr. Hester responded that they would have one, probably on 21st Street. He mentioned that staff is beginning

to work on a citywide signage program for park directional signs from major thoroughfares. He said that this is not a major destination park, but is a mini neighborhood facility.

Commissioner Chavarria said that this site is the recipient of a lot of dumping and homeless people. He said that the neighborhood kids play ball in the street and the park is needed here.

Commissioner Satariano stated that he is supportive of this project.

President Antenore stated that she liked that the trees would not be destroyed. Mr. Hester responded that the trees would be left, but would be trimmed.

It was moved by Vice President Kozaites and seconded by Commissioner Marmion to recommend that the City Manager and the city Council approve the dedication and construction of a mini-park on a site West of San Francisco Avenue and North of 21st Street, as a public park and recreational facility; and recommend that the City Manager, City Council, and Planning Commission approve the design of the park as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

President Antenore suggested that the Commissioners be given a tour of all the new park sites and projects. Mr. Hester stated that staff would be more than happy to set that up.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – DECEMBER 2003

Commissioner Chavarria complemented staff for the opening ceremonies at the new parks.

Commissioner Satariano stated that he echoed Commissioner Chavarria's comments. He said that he is also amazed of the amount of debris that is picked up by the Department, as mentioned in the report.

Commissioner Marmion said that on page 22, he was curious about what the circumstances would be in which staff would perform a burial at the Long Beach Municipal Cemetery. Mr. Hester stated that the Cemetery is under the Department's jurisdiction and staff prepares the site.

Commissioner Rainey stated that she wondered if the senior center programs were shared with the other facilities so that more people would know about them. Ms. Srack responded yes, some of the trips have representatives from all of the senior centers in Long Beach.

Commissioner Rainey said that a concern has come up about the house bound senior citizens. She asked if staff could network with the Ministerial Alliance to contact the house bound seniors to get the information out on the senior center events. Ms. Srack responded that staff would do that.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. LETTER FROM DON NICKLES

President Antenore stated that she received a letter from Mr. Nickles, included in the packet, because the Parks and Recreation Commission answered his concerns.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. DEPARTMENT'S STRATEGIC PLAN – STANDING ITEM

President Antenore stated that there was nothing new on this item.

B. REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE COMMISSIONS

Mr. Hester stated that Commissioner Saltzgaver requested information at the last meeting regarding the various responsibilities of the Commissions under the Department's oversight.

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated that he appreciated the report, however, it really didn't address his question. He wanted to know about the interaction between the commissions. Mr. Hester responded that the Parks and Recreation Commission is the only Charter commission, the other commissions are advisory commissions to the City Council. He said that the Parks and Recreation Commission is basically the umbrella for the other groups. He stated that if issues come up during the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, staff would transfer them back to the appropriate commission, for their response.

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated that he was looking for an organization chart or a connection to the commissions. Mr. Hester responded that there is no connection between the commissions. He said that sometimes staff would bring items before the Parks and Recreation Commission for their endorsement, even though they may have no jurisdiction over that particular item.

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated that he was looking for an understanding among all the commissioners and to the city at large, that the Parks and

Recreation Commission does not have jurisdiction over the beaches or the golf courses. Mr. Hester stated that the Mayor has just appointed a Charter Committee, so this could be a discussion item if the Commissioners have some thoughts on how the Commission should operate, or for clarification.

Mr. Hester stated that it is the responsibility of Department staff to make sure that the advisory commissions do not overstep their authoritative bounds.

Vice Commissioner Kozaites stated that he currently receives the Marine Advisory Commission agenda so he knows what is going on. Mr. Hester stated that is a good point, and if it would be helpful, staff could send copies of the minutes and agendas from the other commissions to the Parks and Recreation Commissioners.

Commissioner Saltzgaver stated that he thought it would be helpful to have more communication between the commissions under the Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Satariano to receive and file this report. The motion carried unanimously.

D. DISCUSSION REGARDING OFF-SITE MEETING LOCATIONS FOR SOME OF THE 2004 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

President Antenore stated that one change is necessary to the off-site meetings discussed at the last Commission meeting, that is June 17, the meeting will be held at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park instead of California Recreation Center.

X. NEW BUSINESS

President Antenore stated that item B would be taken first.

B. SMITHSONIAN WEEK IN LONG BEACH PARKS – MARCH 7-14, 2004

Ms. Vida Brown stated that she is the Director of Public Art Programs for the Public Corporation for the Arts. She stated that in the packet was included the outline for the artists selected for Smithsonian Week and the park sites chosen. She said that the four sites are Bluff Park, Houghton Park, the East Village Arts Park, and Cesar Chavez Park. She said that they are seeking approval to install temporary artworks in those park sites for a minimum of three weeks.

Commissioner Saltzgaver asked if these art pieces could withstand vandalism. Ms. Brown responded that these pieces are vandalism proof.

It was moved by Commissioner Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to approve the installation of temporary

public artworks in Bluff Parks, Cesar E. Chavez Park, the East Village Arts Park, and Houghton Park, as part of Smithsonian Week 2004. The motion carried with Commissioner Rainey abstaining.

President Antenore stated that the Commission would now hear item A.

A. PRESENTATION ON PESTICIDE USE IN THE LONG BEACH PARKS ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Hester stated that at the last Commission meeting there were some questions about the use of pesticides, related to the discussion on 55th Way. He said that staff volunteered to discuss the City's procedures and answer any questions.

Mr. Lee Miller, Superintendent of Park Maintenance, said that he oversees all the park grounds operations, tree trimming, park refuse, weed abatement, and the newly adopted street landscaping division. He said that all pesticide used by the Department gets approval by his office. He introduced Theresa Maceyka, the Park Supervisor who works out of Blair Field. He said that she holds a Pest Control Advisor's License, through the Department of Pesticide Regulation with the State. He said that she also writes all the Department's written recommendations. He also mentioned that Laurie Browning, the Department Safety Officer, works with Mike Alio, the City Safety Officer, and they are working on Citywide safety policies, which pesticides fall under.

Mr. Miller gave a presentation on pesticide use in the park environment. He explained what a pesticide is, what the three basic pesticide categories are, and how the pesticides integrate into the Department's Integrated Pest Management program.

Ms. Theresa Maceyka discussed the Department's use of biological methods for pest control.

D. DISCUSSION ON BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME

Mr. Hester stated that this item was put on the agenda per some concerns on this subject.

Commissioner Satariano said that he was concerned, but after speaking with Mr. Hester, he is very comfortable with the direction.

Mr. Hester stated that, unfortunately, the Department has lost some employees who were involved in this project. He said that staff would keep it moving forward. Mr. Hester stated that the Hall of Fame Committee would make a recommendation and they would bring the nominees to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval.

XI. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

Mr. Robert Lamond said that, unfortunately, he was unable to attend the Dunster or the Tanaka dedications. He also said that today's meeting has been one of the best.

B. STAFF

Mr. Hester distributed a flyer about a tennis program, through the efforts of Commissioner Rainey, in which the Department's tennis concessionaire is working with the NAACP to provide introductory tennis lessons for kids who may not have access to tennis programs.

Mr. Hester stated that the official opening of Peace Park would be held on January 24, at 10:00 a.m. and the members of the Parks and Recreation Commission have been invited. He said that Fellowship Park was tentatively scheduled for an opening on January 31, but the transfer of property has not been finalized. He said that the Commissioners would be notified of several other park openings coming up.

President Antenore suggested that when all the parks have been opened, the Parks and Recreation Commissioners could tour them.

Mr. Hester distributed a copy of the City Manager's memo to the Mayor and City Council regarding his response to the Governor's proposed budget and its impact to the City.

Mr. Eschen mentioned the RiverLink meetings on January 17, one at 10:00 a.m. at Scherer Park and one at 1:00 p.m. at Houghton Park.

Ms. Srack mentioned the Martin Luther King Parade on January 17, at 10:00 a.m.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Antenore commented that Mr. Hester is a good director.

Commissioner Satariano commented that this was a very strong meeting and agreed with President Antenore that Mr. Hester is a good director.

Commissioner Saltzgaver requested a report on the Department's involvement in the 2004 Swimming Competition.

Vice President Kozaites stated that the Dunster grand opening was a nice event.

President Antenore stated that she attended the Tanaka Park opening and was impressed by the park and the walking track made of recycled tires.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2004, in the large conference room at the Parks, Recreation and Marine administration building, 2760 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

President Antenore adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Secretary
to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine